

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A chewable toy for animals, which can be produced by the moulding into a desired configuration of a mixture comprising:

- 100 parts by weight of a degradable polymeric composition comprising a starchy material and a degradable ethylene copolymer;

- from 5 to 30 parts by weight of isomalt; and

- from 0.5 to 5 parts by weight of garlic or derivatives thereof,

wherein the polymeric composition also includes a plasticizer in a quantity of between 10% and 40% by weight, the plasticizer being selected from the group consisting of sucrose, maltose, fructose, and mixtures thereof, and

wherein the mixture comprises from 5 to 10 parts by weight of chestnut flour per 100 parts by weight of the degradable polymeric composition and 15 to 20 parts by weight of ground raw animal hide per 100 parts by weight of the degradable polymeric composition.

Claim 2 (original): A toy according to Claim 1, in which the mixture comprises from 10 to 20 parts by weight of isomalt per 100 parts by weight of degradable polymeric composition.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A toy according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the mixture comprises from 1 to 3 parts by weight of garlic or its derivatives per 100 parts by weight of degradable polymeric composition.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A toy according to claim 1, in which the derivative of garlic is a powder which can be produced as a result of the formation of a suspension of garlic bulbs in water in a ratio by weight within the range between 1:2 and 1:5 and subsequent lyophilization of the suspension with a preliminary stage of cooling to -50°C for from 4 to 8 hours followed by a heating stage with a duration of between 12 and 24 hours, to a temperature no greater than 50°C.

Claim 5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (previously presented): A toy according to claim 1, in which the mixture also comprises from 0.01 to 1 part by weight of hide aroma per 100 parts by weight of degradable polymeric composition.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A toy according to claim 1 in which the mixture also comprises from 0.5 to 3, ~~and preferably from 1 to 2,~~ parts by weight of sodium hexametaphosphate per 100 parts by weight of degradable polymeric composition.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A toy according to claim 1 in which the starchy material is selected from the group consisting of starch, hydrolyzed starch, starch dextrin and mixtures thereof.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A toy according to claim 1, in which the degradable ethylene copolymer is selected from the group consisting of poly(ethylene-acrylic acid), poly(ethylene-vinyl alcohol) and mixtures thereof.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A toy according to claim 1, in which the ratio by weight between the ethylene copolymer and the starchy material is within the range ~~between 1:6 and 2:1~~ and, preferably, within the range between 1:6 and 1:1.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A toy according to claim 1, wherein the plasticizer includes at least one of glycerol, sorbitol, sorbitan, manitol, maltitol, and hydrogenated starch syrup.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A toy according to claim 1, having the shape of a bone.

Claim 14 (new): A toy according to claim 1 in which the mixture also comprises from 1 to 2 parts by weight of sodium hexametaphosphate per 100 parts by weight of degradable polymeric composition.

Claim 15 (new): A toy according to claim 1, in which the ratio by weight between the ethylene copolymer and the starchy material is within the range 1:6 and 1:1.